

REMARKS:

- 1) The Examiner's attention is directed to a further Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on January 12, 2004. We have discovered a typographical error on the Form PTO-1449 of January 12, 2004. Particularly, the reference date of reference AE should be changed from "09/1998" to --09/1989--. For the Examiner's reference, we are enclosing a **corrected** version of applicants' Fourth IDS Form PTO-1449 of January 12, 2004. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references, and to return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the Corrected IDS Form PTO-1449 of January 12, 2004.
- 2) Entry and consideration of the present amendment after Final is respectfully requested. This amendment merely adopts the indicated allowable subject matter and cancels the rejected claims, in order to place all remaining claims into allowable condition. This amendment does not raise any new issues or require further search or consideration. Thus, entry thereof after Final status is appropriate.
- 3) The claims have been amended as follows. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of prior claim 5. Claims 4, 6 to 9 and 20 depending from claim 1 have been amended for proper conformance with the amended independent claim and for streamlining the terminology. The allowed claims

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12 to 15 have been maintained without amendment. Claims 5, 10, 11, 16 to 19, 21 and 22 have been canceled. These amendments do not introduce any new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

- 4) Referring to section 6 on page 6 of the Office Action, the allowance of claims 12 to 15 is appreciated. These claims have been maintained without amendment, and should thus still stand allowed.
- 5) Referring to section 7 on page 6 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in prior claims 5 to 8 is appreciated. The allowable subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into amended independent claim 1. Thus, claim 1, as well as claims 4, 6 to 9 and 20 depending therefrom, should now be allowable.
- 6) Referring to sections 2 to 5 on pages 2 to 6 of the Office Action, the several prior art rejections have been obviated by the present amendment of independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of non-rejected claim 5, and the cancellation of the other rejected claims. Accordingly, these rejections cannot be applied against any of the present remaining claims, and should be withdrawn.

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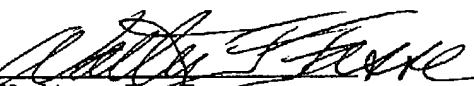
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- 7) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1, 4, 6 to 9, 12 to 15 and 20, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Applicant

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Encls.:
corrected copy of Fourth
Form PTO-1449 of 01/12/04

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

 2/9/04
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: February 9, 2004

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